

## THE GRAPEVINE

Marcella McCormack,  
Administrator

Jody Price  
Public Information  
Officer

Reporters/Columnists:

Chris Williams

Lou Zauner

THE GRAPEVINE is an official publication of the Veterans Home of California, produced bi-weekly by the Public Information Office. For information call (707) 944-4541. Get your own copy delivered every other Friday. The service is arranged by calling the Public Information Office at (707) 944-4541. Send subscriptions and articles for publication to: GRAPEVINE, Public Information Office, Veterans Home of California, PO Box 1200, Yountville, CA 94599. FAX to: (707) 944-4542.

# The Grapevine

Newsletter of the Yountville Veterans Home

November 26, 2009



## From the Administrator's Desk ...

Now that we have enjoyed Thanksgiving, we can pause to catch our breath before plunging into the rest of the holiday season. I am particularly grateful for the beautiful home we have and its peaceful setting. You might be interested in other states' facilities. Ask at the library desk for a loose-leaf binder labeled *States' Veterans Homes* and you can compare.

Today is a good time to reflect on the individuals and organizations that got us here. They come and go, each leaving a contribution behind. The *Grand Army of the Republic* was essential in establishing a foundation for us. Each of the veterans' organizations that followed has added its heart as well as concrete and funds. Let them know in the coming season that we do not take them for granted.

## Superb 5th Annual Celebrity Chefs' Luncheon

By Lou Zauner

Veterans Day at the Home couldn't have been more perfect. The Annual Celebrity Chefs' Luncheon fell on November 11 for the first time. As an honor to the Home Residents, the annual luncheon is provided by the Town of Yountville, its Chamber of Commerce, the talents of some of the finest chefs in the country, plus dozens of gracious volunteers and donors.

What a Menu! More than 1,000 exquisite servings of Tomato Bisque and Puff Pastry, by Chef Joel Ehrlich, Bistro Jeanty; Grilled Filet Mignon, Cabernet Reduction, by Chef Kevin Miller, Vintage Estate; Confit of Marble Potatoes with Melted



Onions and Garden Herbs, by Chef Dave Cruz, Ad Hoc; Rapini with Lemon and Shallots, by Chef Sean Knight, Mustard's Grill; Pain au Lait,

by Chef Matt McDonald, Bouchon Bakery; Chocolate Boca Nero, Chantilly Cream Caramel, by Chef Jason Buckley, Napa Valley Grille. And WINES! Donated by Andretti Winery, Domaine Chandon, Hess Collection Winery, Larkin Wines, Opus One, Sequoia Grove Winery, Sutter Home Ranch Market Too, FOCUS.

Two sittings for the luncheon in the Main Dining Room were served by more than 70 Chamber of Commerce volunteers, the Home's outstanding Dietary Staff and numerous Home vol-



unteers. Special arrangements were also made for service to Hospital and Higher Care Residents. Hurley's General Manager, Jerry Lampe, again orchestrated the serving program assigning his teams of specialists for incomparable attention to each diner.



The Chefs!  
Yountville's Finest!



Preceding the luncheon, the Scottish-American Military Society presented the Colors and all present saluted our Country and Veterans

Day while singing our National Anthem. Following, Deputy Administrator Bart Buechner introduced Lynn Scott who delivered greetings from the Governor and Secretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs. The Benediction, before dining, was presented by Chaplain Robert Krueger.



And, special thanks to Volunteers Joyce and Santiago Martinez who entertained the crowd at both sittings with their delightful music.

Home Residents and Staff sincerely appreciate the enormous dedication and friendship of the Celebrity Chefs, the Town of Yountville and the Chamber of Commerce; the donations of talent, food and wine; and the volunteers and our Dining Staff who all give so much of their time and fine service.

Thank you!

More photos on next page





5th Annual Celebrity Chefs' Luncheon continued...



Celebrity Chef and organizer of the Annual Luncheon, Chef Bob Hurley.



**KVET TV Schedule**

The schedule for KVET entertainment channel will be printed separately and distributed to the residences.

**See's Candy Sale**

See's will be here on Wednesday, December 2nd in the HRA Hallway from 10:00am to 3:30pm with gifts at a discount price.





**As I Heard It--Dix Bruce Band wows Audience, by Lou Zauner** Veterans Week celebrations included Dix Bruce and his Traditional Jazz/Dixieland Band with another outstanding concert on Friday, November 13. For two hours, Dix Bruce and his six music-makers had the Hospital Recreation Area rocking, rolling, hopping, and stomping to great music.

## Iron Warriors 20th Annual Home Celebration

By Lou Zauner

It was perfect weather on Saturday, November 7, when the roar of hundreds of motorcycles headed for the Main Picnic Grounds. It was time for their annual Veterans Day salute to the Home and time to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of such tributes made by the Iron Warriors.

The Iron Warriors is a motorcycle club of active and retired law enforcement officers and firefighters who ride Harleys and other American-produced bikes. This year, publicity through newsletters and word-of-mouth, attracted other motorcycle club members, such as the American Legion Riders, to join the celebration. The result was a visit of more than 500 bikers.

The Main Picnic Grounds crowd included Home Residents, Staff, and volunteers which included the AT&T Pio-

## Angels Were a Little Early

### Eisenhower Enjoys Choir

By Chris Williams

The Montessori Children's House in Napa brought its singers to delight the residents of Eisenhower. When the sweet (but sturdy) voices wafted through the air, passersby were enchanted and crowded into the room. Their poise caused many to think they



were older; their ages ranged from three all the way up to six. The ten-year old school has made a mark for itself in creativity. Their secret is now revealed: "Start 'em young!" Their fifteen member choir will be a joy during the holiday season.



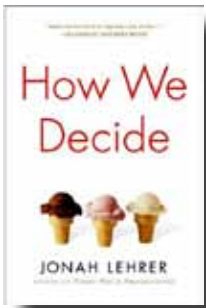
## Trust Your Gut?

Does expensive wine really taste better than cheap wine?

Why do we spend more when paying with a credit card than when we're paying cash?

How do you decide whether or not to eat that piece of chocolate cake?

Jonah Lehrer, author of *How We Decide*, tells us when to listen to our reasoning brain and when to let our emotions rule. He combines neuroscience, sports, war, psychology, and politics into a fascinating analysis of human decision making. The trick is to determine when to use different parts of the brain.



Lehrer concludes, after the wine tasting experiment, that too much information (such as the price of the wines) can interfere with our ability to make rational decisions. When the prices were concealed, the results were almost completely reversed.



Malcolm Gladwell comes down on the side of intuition when making decisions in *Blink*. Subtitled *The Power of Thinking without Thinking*, Gladwell's book suggests that too much time in the mind may actually contaminate the decision-making process. His book might be subtitled, The Magic of the First Two Seconds, because it's during that time many decisions are made. What follows is rationalization.

Tip: when you can't find anything interesting to read, ask your librarian for a suggestion. Grace Evens was working when I was looking for something interesting and recommended these two books.

## ❖ Paws with Brandy ❖

### Bob, Bob, Bobbin' Along

I know two women here named Rosa. Except for them, all the women have different names. I'm the only Brandy. The men, though, seem to share three or four names. Did you ever call "Bill!" in a room full of people? You could cause a stampede.

I've had four walkers, three of them named Bob. Only one of the Bobs can walk with me now. So, we have to find replacements. If you can spare some time to stroll with me, contact my agent, Jack Brannan, in Section C. I don't know if you have to be named "Bob."

It will be good for both of us. There's a saying, "If you're overweight, your dog isn't getting enough exercise." I promise you a good time – I can point out things you might not notice. Did you know the gophers are re-appearing? I'll show you where they are. Dogs are good at that.



I went downstairs to talk to Carol Anderson, the physical therapist, about the benefits of walking. I didn't know there were so many. "Walking will give you extra support to maintain balance," she said. "It will tune up your lungs and circulatory system."

Peter M. Abel, M.D., of the *Cardiovascular Institute* believes walking is the best exercise there is. "The benefits are both instant and cumulative," he says. He doesn't ask you to do much, just 20 minutes, three times a week.

Why don't we do it together? I promise to be a good partner; I never pull, and I always do what you ask. Come on up and see me sometime. ❖





Calling all Birders!

We have a visitor this time of year. Join the bird-walk at 9am on Saturday, November 28, starting from the Memory Care Center, and you can join in the welcome party. The Varied Thrush is a migrant this time of year, and, if we’re lucky, we will spot this visitor form the Northwest. They don’t breed here; they’re just visiting the wineries like everyone else.

Because we’re in a migration flyway, we can enjoy these tourists in addition to our year-round residents. The Varied Thrush is a cousin of the Robin, much more colorful. A flock of thrushes is called a ‘hermitage’. Can you tell us what a flock of crows is called?



upcoming Performances

**Saturday, December 5, 2009 8 P.M.**  
*American Christmas* starring 12 American Idol Finalists. Tickets: \$49, \$39, \$29

**Saturday, December 12, 2009 7 P.M.**  
*Posada Navideña* Colorful, fast-paced and culturally rich, Posada Navideña is a festive traditional and holiday-themed Ballet Folklórico. Tickets: \$35, \$25, \$20, Children 12 and under \$12

**Saturday, December 19, 2009 2 P.M. and 7 P.M.**  
**Sunday, December 20, 2009 2 P.M.**  
*The Nutcracker* by Napa Regional Dance Company Tickets: \$25, \$20, \$15

**Sunday, January 3, 2010 4 P.M.**  
*New Shanghai Circus* Astonishing acrobats, jugglers and contortionists. Tickets: \$39, \$29, Children 12 and under \$15

**Saturday, January 16, 2010 8 P.M.**  
*Blood Sweat & Tears* 2009 World Tour. Tickets: \$49, \$39, \$29

**Sunday, January 17, 2010 3 P.M.**  
*Goodnight Moon* A musical adaptation of the beloved Margaret Wise Brown classic work “Goodnight Moon” Tickets: All Seats only \$10

**Thursday, January 21, 2010 8 P.M.**  
*Yesterday And Today: A Beatles Tribute* Tickets: \$25, \$20

Thank you, AMVETS, for your continued support of the Yountville Veterans Home Media Program



**Residential Care**  
**Special Activities**  
Sign up early at Activities  
or call 944-4900

November			
Date		Time	Event
26	Thu	All Day	Thanksgiving Holiday
27	Fri	All Day	Thanksgiving Holiday
28	Sat	9:00am	Bird Watching Tour *MCC
30	Mon	8:30am	New Disney Museum, SF Presidio *MDR
December			
1	Tue	10:00am	Shopping: Napa Outlets & Super WalMart, American Canyon *MDR
2	Wed	10:00am	See’s Candies Sale *HRA hallway
5	Sat	5:00pm	Basketball: Warriors vs. Orlando *MDR
5	Sat	8:00pm	American Idol Christmas *LT
7	Mon	10:00am	Shopping: Fairfield Mall *MDR
8	Tue	8:30am	Breakfast Club: Black Bear, Sonoma *MDR
8	Tue	5:30pm	Pinochle Tournament *HRA
9	Wed	9:00am	Allied Council Meeting *HRA
10	Thu	10:00am	Remembrance Service *CHP
10	Thu	12:30pm	LaMelange & Library, Napa *MDR
11	Fri	Napa Elks Dinner *pick time/location provided when you sign up with Activities	
12	Sat	9:00am	Bird Watching Tour *MCC
12	Sat	8:00pm	Posada Navidena *LT
15	Tue	2:30pm	Taco Tuesday at Compadres *MDR
15	Tue	6:00pm	Holiday C oncert *MDR
16	Tue	8:30am	King Tut Expo *MDR
16	Wed	6:00pm	Christmas Light Tour *MDR
17	Thu	10:00am	Budweiser/Jelly Belly Tour *MDR
17	Thu	5:30pm	Dominoes and Prizes *HRA
18	Fri	10:30am	Bunch for Lunch: Mary’s Pizza *MDR
18	Fri	5:00pm	Basketball: Warriors vs. Washington *MDR
19	Sat	2:00pm	Nutcracker Ballet *LT
19	Sat	7:00pm	Nutcracker Ballet *LT
20	Sun	7:30am	Napa Sr Breakfast *MDR
20	Sun	2:00pm	Nutcracker Ballet *LT
21	Mon	10:00am	Shopping: Target-Raley’s-WalMart, Napa *MDR
23	Wed	6:00pm	Christmas Light Tour *MDR
25	Fri	All Day	Christmas Holiday
31	Thu		New Year’s Eve

\*CHP: Main Chapel; \*HRA: Hospital Recreation Area; \*LT: Lincoln Theater; \*MCC: Memory Care Center; \*MDR: Trip bus leaves from the Main Dining Room Bus Stop; \*MPG: Main Picnic Grounds

**Movies in the HRA**  
All movies begin at 6pm  
Movie Coordinators:  
James Musson & Neil Remnant Transportation to Residences follows movie.

Date		Title/Year/Rating
November		
27	Fri	17 Again PG-13
30	Mon	The Woman (1939) NR
December		
1	Tue	Princess Comes Across (1936) NR
2	Wed	MacArthur (1977) PG
4	Fri	The Proposal (2009) PG-13
7	Mon	Tora! Tora! Tora! (1970) PG
8	Tue	No Movie - Pinochle at 5:30pm
9	Wed	A Perfect World (1993) PG-13
11	Fri	My Life In Ruins (2009) PG-13
14	Mon	DuBarry Was A Lady (1943) NR
15	Tue	Fire Over England (1937) NR
16	Wed	Planes, Trains & Automobiles (1987) R
18	Fri	UP (2008) G
21	Mon	Tammy And The Bachelor (1957) G
22	Tue	A Christmas Carol (1938) NR
23	Wed	The Wizard of OZ (1939) G
25	Fri	No Movie - Christmas
28	Mon	How To Murder Your Wife (1965) PG
29	Tue	The Red House (1947) NR
30	Wed	Our Man In Havana (1960) NR

Napa Valley Museum  
“Take-a-Chance-on-Miniatures!”  
November 28 – January 10, 2010

The Napa Valley Museum announces its “2009 MINIATURES!” exhibition and fundraiser. Local artists have donated miniature works of art that will be exhibited in the Museum’s main gallery and is the focus of our winter campaign to raise funds for the Museum’s enriching programs.

The Museum members’ preview, artists’ reception and “Take-a-Chance-on-Miniatures!” ticket sale will be held from 5:50 to 7 p.m. Saturday November 28, 2009.



Grapevine Deadlines & Publications Dates

The Grapevine is published on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays each month as the center section in the Yountville Sun. Deadlines are generally 10 days before publication date. The Grapevine office is on furlough the first three Fridays of each month.

Month	Publications	Deadlines
December	Dec 10	Nov 30
	Dec 24	Dec 14